Report of National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes

t2923. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the importance of security and development of Nomadic tribes, the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes was constituted by Government in November, 2003 and reconstituted in March, 2005;

(b) whether interim report has been submitted by the Commission in May, 2007; and

(c) if so, the main recommendations of the Commission and by when they would be laid on the Table of the House by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The interim recommendations of the Commission are under consideration.

Categories of SCs enjoying benefits of reservation

t 2924. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many categories of Scheduled Castes are getting the benefits of reservation;

(b) whether Balmiki, Mehtar and Bhangi categories are also getting these benefits;

(c) the details and the number of persons belonging to these categories who have been extended the benefits of reservation during the last three years;

(d) the reasons for which people of these categories are considered untouchable even after sixty years of independence;

(e) how many such cases have come to Government's notice during the last three years; and

(f) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Scheduled Castes have been listed in the Presidential Orders made under Article 341(1) of the Constitution of India and amended from time to time by Acts of Parliament under Article 341(2) of the Constitution. All such castes, which have been specified as Scheduled Castes in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders as amended from time to time are, thus entitled, for such benefits as are admissible to them.

(d) Article 17 of the Constitution of India has abolished 'untouchability' and forbiden its practice in any form and the enforcement of any disability arising out of 'untouchability is an offence punishable in accordance with the law.

(e) and (f) The year wise number of cases registered under the Protection of Civil Rights

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Act, 1955 during 2004, 2005 and 2006 are as under:—

Year	Number of cases
2004	**126**
2005	**453**
2006	**454**

Schools for blind and deaf children

2925. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry runs schools for blind and deaf children;

(b) if so, the details of such schools being run across the country;

(c) whether NGOs have approached the Ministry to takeover the running of schools for deaf and blind children run by them; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry does not run schools for blind and deaf children. However, the Ministry has been supporting an autonomous body, namely National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun and Non-Governmental Organizations for running such schools.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

National Overseas Scholarship Scheme

2926. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who have been awarded scholarship under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme during the last and current academic session in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government has taken steps to make awareness about this scheme for optimum utilization by those students;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the proposed number of beneficiaries under this scheme for the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON): (a) Under the scheme of National Overseas Scholarships for Scheduled Tribe candidates, during the Tenth Plan period, upto 10 provisional awards could be granted every year so as to enable the selected candidates to obtain admission in any recognised foreign university followed by final awards. In 2007-08,2 students were sanctioned final awards to proceed for studies abroad and one of them was from Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Applications are invited under the Scheme through advertisements, published in various news-papers (national as well as regional), and also posted on the website of the Ministry.